

News. The longest continuously published newspaper in Michigan. The Monroe Evening News traces its roots back to 1825 when it was first published by Edward D. Ellis as The Michigan Sentinel. The 175 year history of this distinguished paper is one in which the people of Monroe County take great pride.

The Monroe Evening News has survived and flourished because it has changed with the times while remaining true to the journalistic values first put forth by Mr. Ellis. Perhaps the most significant change in The Monroe Evening News occurred in 1994 when the employees acquired a majority stake in the paper. In 1999, the employees bought all of the remaining shares, making it one of only two newspapers in the country to be owned, in its entirety, by its employees. Employee ownership will preserve for future generations the controlling local interest that characterized its first 175 years.

With such a long history, The Monroe Evening News has seen many changes. In 1987, the publication delivered its first Saturday morning edition. The success of the Saturday morning edition led the paper to publish a Sunday morning edition only two years later. Today, The Monroe Evening News is published seven days a week. In 1998 another major change occurred, The Monroe Evening News built a state-of-the-art printing facility. This new printing plant enabled the paper to adopt a computerized, full color layout. Before the plant was constructed, the paper was published on two printing presses that were built in 1924 and 1932, believed to be the oldest in the country.

Through 175 years of change and progress, the one constant at The Monroe Evening News has been its journalistic commitment to objectivity and fairness. These values reflect those of the community the paper serves and account for the growth and success it has enjoyed.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to rise with me in tribute to a fine institution, The Monroe Evening News.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR ON BEHALF OF VFW POST 4379 AND THE 23RD VFW DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. This Saturday, June 25th, the Winchester Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4379 and the 23rd VFW District will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War to "Honor America's Heroes."

On June 30th, 1950, President Truman ordered United States ground forces into South Korea and a naval blockade of the Korean coast. Only a few days earlier, North Korean forces had crossed the 38th parallel invading South Korea and capturing the South Korean capital of Seoul.

One of the war's most dramatic battles, Chosin, saw 17 Medals of Honor and 70 Navy Crosses awarded, more than any single U.S. action. The Marines and other Allied troops

saw nearly 2,400 of their own killed and 10,000 wounded or frostbitten. And yet, this is often called the "forgotten war" by our veterans, who found themselves returning to an indifferent home front keeping their experiences to themselves.

Well, I say "NO MORE," Mr. Speaker! And ask that my home district of Riverside County, California and the whole nation open their minds and hearts to the stories of our Korean War veterans—that they join in the celebration. The sacrifice that service men and women have selflessly accepted over the centuries deserve at least that much. I offer my most heartfelt appreciation to the veterans of VFW Post 4379 and the 23rd VFW District.

NEW SPIRIT OF GREEK-TURKISH COOPERATION IN NATO

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, there has been a remarkable step forward in the rapprochement between Greece and Turkey over the past two weeks as our two NATO allies have cooperated militarily as part of NATO's Dynamic Mix exercise in the eastern Mediterranean.

Greek-Turkish military cooperation during this exercise marks a historic turning point. For the first time, 150 Turkish soldiers landed on a Greek beach as part of an alliance wargame to practice repelling an enemy assault on a NATO ally in its southern region. Turkish troops landed near where the Greeks began their 1821 war of independence against the Ottoman ancestors of modern day Turkey. As part of the maneuvers, Turkish warplanes also landed at a Greek airbase for the first time since 1972.

Improved relations between Greece and Turkey started with low-level talks on non-contentious matters and were given a boost by mutual outpourings of assistance when destructive earthquakes struck both countries last year. Military cooperation between Greek and Turkish forces—which had been stalled by intractable disputes over the Aegean sea, airspace, sovereignty, militarization of islands, and Cyprus, since the early 1970s—could pave the way for further progress on bilateral problems. Although the two allies have not yet tackled these complex issues, their commitment to cooperation in NATO maneuvers in the eastern Mediterranean is an encouraging sign.

Turkey made the first gesture on Aegean disputes this time by agreeing to file flight plans for its military aircraft participating in the exercise, a Greek demand even though the 1944 International Civil Aviation Organization accords do not require military aircraft flying in international airspace to do so. Greece accepted the goodwill offer by allowing the flight plans to be filed in NATO's southern region headquarters in Italy, rather than in Athens.

Turkey is one of the staunchest NATO allies and continues to field the largest standing army in the Alliance after the United States. Turkey anchored NATO's southern flank from the time it joined the Alliance in 1952 through the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991. Turkey hosted NATO's southeastern land and air

commands at Izmir, while counterpart headquarters in Larissa, Greece, were stood up just last fall. Turkey has played consistently in NATO exercises in the region, despite Greek boycotting of the maneuvers over disputed Aegean airspace and militarization of its islands.

Greek-Turkish military cooperation in NATO's southern region is crucial for the Alliance to shore up its defenses in the eastern Mediterranean, respond to potential crises in the Middle East, and promote stability in the Balkan region. Our allies in the eastern Mediterranean have already become the new front line states for post Cold War conflicts, such as the Gulf War, the conflict in Bosnia, and the war in Kosovo. Further military gestures to circumvent longstanding Aegean disputes, such as Turkey's compromise this time, will strengthen bilateral relations between two key allies and bolster NATO's ability to defend its southern region in the 21st century.

HIGH NEED HOSPITAL MEDICARE RATE RELIEF ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced the High Need Hospital Medicare Rate Relief Act of 2000 to address the unintended consequences of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. It had a disproportionate impact on hospitals that serve especially large numbers of Medicare and Medicaid patients. These hospitals are located in our most rural communities and in our largest urban areas and include sole rural hospitals and large academic medical centers.

What they have in common is the overwhelming amount of care they provide to our Country's elderly and poor, insured and uninsured. It is their service mission that distinguishes them and now puts them at grave financial risk.

With the revenue stream heavily weighted toward Medicare and Medicaid, these 600 or so safety net hospitals are more dependent on federal and state reimbursement than any other hospitals. They have relatively few commercially insured patients, and therefore, little or no ability to offset Medicare costs. This financial problem is exacerbated by the large numbers of uninsured patients that rely on these same providers for care.

We are talking about the providers that make up the Nation's health care safety net. The High Need Hospital Medicare Rate Relief Act of 2000 defines these hospitals as ones whose combined Medicare and Medicaid inpatient days exceed 65 percent and whose Medicare disproportionate share percentage exceeds 40 percent. The Act targets relief to these high-need hospitals through two separate payment mechanisms.

First, this bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to calculate a qualifying hospital's market basket update—or inflation adjustment—for federal fiscal years 2001 and 2002 as if there had not been a 1.8 percentage reduction in the market basket adjustment for fiscal year 2000. By restoring the rate base at these hospitals for purposes of calculating future year rates, this proposal would partially offset the accumulated cuts inflicted by the